



Submitted Photo

From left to right, graduate student Matt Kennedy and his bandmates, alumnus Nathan Vickers, graduate student Michael Kosiek, senior Annie Crites and alumnus Max Robinson play Nov. 3 in Shell Knob, Mo. The band recently recorded its first album, "Mighty Fools," which features a mixture of blues, bluegrass, country and Irish music.

CD captures band's sound

The Busted String Band's first recording experience preserves live music

BY EMILY BATTMER
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For the past year, the six members of The Busted String Band have been gathering in their guitarist's living room, patiently recording and rerecording their first full-length CD using only a Mac computer, a couple of microphones and a Marshall amp — all to preserve their music and commemorate their experiences.

After overcoming a few hurdles, the band released their ten-track CD, "Mighty Fools," in Kirksville on Friday during a party at Wrongdaddy's, Matt Kennedy, graduate student and program advisor for service and leadership, said.

"Mighty Fools" features a mix of blues, bluegrass, country and Irish influences with a roots music center that holds everything together, Kennedy said, and is a good representation of the band's diverse sound.

The title track, "Mighty Fools," is a sad country ballad, he said. The song isn't a staple of their live performances, so he said the band wanted to draw attention to the recording.

"It's a little all over the place, but I think it

really captures the essence of what our band is, which is a little hard to pin down in terms of style," Kennedy said.

Kennedy, the band's guitarist, said the diverse project was not without its share of obstacles. The ultimate goal was to create something the band could be proud of, but because they recorded at home and had limited experience with sound engineering, there were a couple of failed attempts before they were able to produce a record they were happy with, he said.

Each musician recorded their individual tracks in Kennedy's living room, using Garage Band to piece it all together. The recording finally was finished during October, and Kennedy said it was worth the hours of work that went into the CD's creation.

"I think it represents kind of a snapshot of what we've got going on," Kennedy said. "Being a band that's comprised of people that are not necessarily planning on this being a full-time career and people who are only going to be in Kirksville for a few years, we wanted to capture the essence of [the band]."

Kennedy said the CD allows the band to take the music they've written and the stories their music tells and put them in a tangible

format that can be kept for "posterity's sake."

While Kennedy said he is proud of the effort that went into the CD, he said it also is exciting the CD has been well received by fans. By his estimates, about 350 people attended the release party and about 60 CDs were sold Friday at Wrongdaddy's, Kennedy said.

Graduate student and GTRA Michael Kosiek said it was the support of fans that originally gave the band the idea to record.

"People were egging us on, asking us about [a CD] and putting the idea in our heads that we should have something to show what we've done over the past couple years and have something tangible to remember us by," Kosiek said.

After that, Kosiek said the band probably spent at least 200 hours creating the CD. He said the band wanted to make sure it was something they were proud to call their own, and they were willing to work out the kinks, learning the process of home recording and overcoming minor arguments throughout the process.

"There was definitely some brotherly and sisterly arguing — we're kind of like a big family," Kosiek said. "All in all I think it did help us grow as a band ... I think it was all for a good purpose."

Not only did the band learn to manage

tension during the recording process but Kosiek said recording also taught them more about their music. By examining the songs closely during recording, the musicians got to know their original songs better than before, he said.

After all the work the group dedicated to the project, Kosiek said he is excited to see the CD gaining interest. He said he was not expecting to go through their first 100 disc order so quickly, and the fact that only 40 CDs remain from their first order disproves his belief that there was not much interest in the band's music.

"We just wanted to do something we were proud of and had a lot of fun doing," he said. "It's kind of a surreal kind of feeling that people actually spent their money on it. It's nice to know people are still willing to support local acts and live music."

Senior drummer Paul Hadwiger said he agreed the project was a growing experience for the band. Discipline, patience and consistency were key to the success of the project, he said.

"You had to do a lot more personal work in your recording," Hadwiger said. "Everyone had to practice more, had to work harder on their own individual playing, so everyone kind of grew more as musicians with this project."

Hadwiger said he hopes "Mighty Fools" will give more people the opportunity to listen to The Busted String Band and increase enthusiasm for live performances.

To purchase a copy of "Mighty Fools," email bustedstringband@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/pages/The-Busted-String-Band.

Students collect, share music

Students create website to share new artists, mash-ups and remixes

BY CHELSIE YOKUM
Staff Reporter

Pandora and Spotify have captivated music lovers across the United States and the world, but Truman State sophomore Austin Hayden and his friends Brennan Floss, Indian Hills Community College students, and Conner Buchanan, University of Iowa student, took music-sharing into their own hands this year.

Hayden, Floss and Buchanan launched a website called All Beats Collected Oct. 1. The three of them created, designed and maintain the music-sharing blog. The website, which they began plans for during summer 2012, is shortened to the title ABC, based on the trio's first names. They try to find new artists, mash-ups, remixes and house music, which is a world-wide genre of electronic dance music that has been infused with pop and main-

stream music, Hayden said. They post music from genres including hip-hop, indie, folk and country.

"Honestly it's just been a side hobby that I've always had," Hayden said. "We've always been really athletic, we're always listening to music before games, we've always been kind of outgoing, we've always tried to find new hip-hop songs that people would like to listen to at a party."

Although currently the two-month old website mostly consists of individual song posts, Hayden said they want to include more playlists on the website.

"We know people want to get on a website, let it play, do their thing, just listen," Hayden said. "[But] being athletes, and [at] different schools [and me being a] Truman student, it's hard to do it all at the same time. We're still kind of getting used to the website."

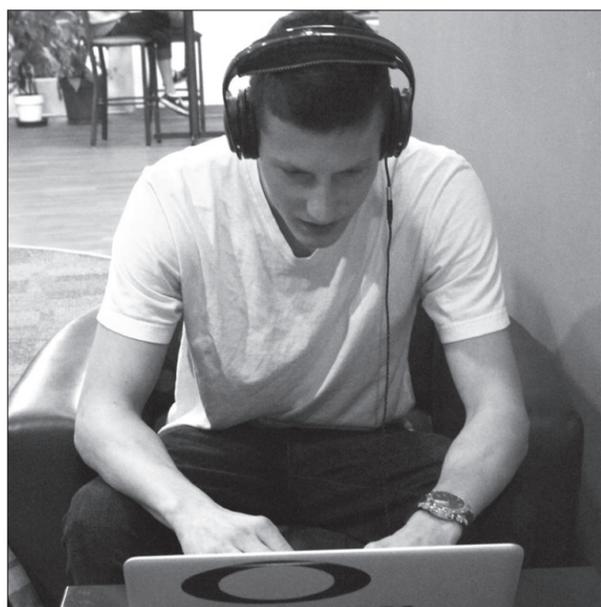
Hayden, Floss and Buchanan created the website through the website and blogging software WordPress.org. ABC primarily was designed by Buchanan, whose experience in web design consisted

of a class during high school, and is updated primarily by Hayden and Floss. Hayden said maintaining the website mostly consists of checking how many hits the website receives daily, checking the Facebook and Twitter accounts and updating posts. The three coordinate with each other to ensure there are updates at all times to keep their fans engaged, Buchanan said.

Hayden said they find most of their music updates through other music blogs, Pandora and suggestions from friends and other fans. Hayden said the website has been averaging 150-250 views a day, mostly from close friends, family members, friends from their home town, sports friends and fraternity brothers. The website reached an all-time high number of hits on Nov. 29, at 272.

Sophomore Ross Randazzo, Hayden's fraternity brother, regularly checks ABC.

"It's hard to find time to find all this new music that keeps coming out," Randazzo said. "And [Hayden] finds really random songs, songs



Calli Lowry/Index

Sophomore Austin Hayden updates his website, All Beats Collected, on Tuesday in the library cafe. Hayden and his friends update the website with new music from various genres.

that you don't normally hear on the radio. He gets it out there."

Hayden said they plan to expand the website during the future, once they get the fundamentals down and improve the website as much as they can. He said their goal is to keep the word spreading to other schools.

"We've got some friends in Ari-

zona going to college, Minnesota — we've got friends all over the place that we're trying to tell, and hope that they can help spread it in those places," Buchanan said.

You can help support All Beats Collected by adding them on Facebook, following them on Twitter, and helping to spread the word.

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